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Devine, E. T. *Misery and its Causes.* Pp. xi, 274. Price, \$1.25. New York: Macmillan Company, 1909.

Many valuable additions have recently been made to the literature of the social worker, but none more valuable than this last work of Dr. Devine's. We can do no better than quote the following sentence of the editor of the American Social Progress Series, of which series this volume is the third to appear. "With fascinating realism, with astonishing concentration, with the keenest insight and interpretation of the results of an unusually rich, deep and varied personal experience, and with a charm of style and a perfectly irresistible optimism in treating some of the saddest facts of human life, Professor Devine has placed us all under lasting obligations not only for a better understanding of the causes of misery, but also for the realization of the fact that there is a prophylaxis of misery and the promise of a real world in which it will be reduced by social control to manageable proportions."

In this work the author sets for himself the task of examining the causes of human misery. Misery he differentiates from poverty by defining the latter as the absence of wealth while misery implies not only lack of wealth, but also a low standard of living, overcrowding, overwork, disease, friendlessness and like disadvantages. The field is covered in six chapters with the following significant titles: Poverty and Maladjustment; Out of Health; Out of Work; Out of Friends; The Adverse Conditions in Dependent Families, and The Justice and Prosperity of the Future.

To Dr. Devine misery is the result of social maladjustments which "are being perpetuated by the present voluntary action of men." It is "communicable, curable and preventable" and lies "not in the unalterable nature of things, but in our particular human institutions, our social arrangements, our tenements and streets and subways, our laws, and courts and jails, our religion, our education, our philanthropy, our politics, our industry and our business."

In the second, third and fourth chapters, poor health, unemployment and friendlessness as causes of misery are respectively discussed and illustrated by a wealth of diagrams. The material found in the chapter on "The Adverse Conditions in Dependent Families" is a first-hand and intensive study of five thousand families who came under the care of the Charity Organization Society of New York in the two years ending September 30, 1908. The four most important disabilities present in these families are found to be unemployment, 69.16 per cent; overcrowding, 44.68 per cent; widowhood, 29.44 per cent; chronic physical disability other than tuberculosis or rheumatism, 27.30 per cent. Other causes of decreasing importance follow; *e. g.*, intemperance, 16.66 per cent; tuberculosis, 12.38 per cent; immorality, 5.12 per cent; criminal record, 3.02 per cent, etc.

Under the title, "The Justice and Prosperity of the Future," Dr. Devine enumerates certain of the essential conditions of a normal community, meaning thereby such a community as may be "realized by reasonable effort and a moderate exercise of national social control." The discussion is virtually

a program of social work. The book is permeated with the belief that it is possible to have a new civilization in which misery is eliminated right here and now and that it will be attained when we socially apply the knowledge of the causes of misery already in our possession.

FRANK DEKKER WATSON.

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Hasbach, W. *A History of the English Agricultural Labourer.* Pp. xvi, 470. Price, 7s. 6d. London: P. S. King & Son, 1908.

American students of economic history and of labor problems will welcome this English translation of Dr. Hasbach's well known work, especially as the book as it now appears is not simply a translation of the German original of 1894, but of a thorough revision made by the author especially for this translated edition.

More attention is given in this edition than in the original to the development of a free laboring class in England, and a chapter is added on the agricultural laborer from 1894 to 1906. To quote from the author's introduction, "The first chapter of this book attempts to tell how the agricultural laborer rose to personal freedom [pp. 1-70]; the second chapter, how he lost his property [pp. 71-170]; the third shows his degradation [pp. 171-216]; and the latter chapters [pp. 217-353] recount the endeavors made to improve his position and to raise at least a part of his class into the class of undertakers."

In England, the agricultural classes have become more completely divided into three distinct classes, landlords, tenant farmers and wage laborers, than in any other country in the world. The possibility of rising from a lower to a higher agricultural class is, in England, exceedingly remote. While the agricultural laborer is the central figure in this book, the telling of the story of this one class involves the writing of the history of the growth of all three classes and their interrelations. This task has been admirably performed by the author.

H. C. TAYLOR.

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Lecky, W. E. H. *Historical and Political Essays.* Pp. 324. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1908.

The publication of this collection of essays was planned by Mr. Lecky, but only four of them had been revised at the time of his death. Thirteen were originally given as addresses or contributed as articles to reviews or magazines; one, the "Memoir of the Fifteenth Earl of Derby," had been prefixed to the volume of his speeches and addresses. Like the last named, several others deal with phases of biographical criticism. "Formative Influences" is a bit of autobiography. It sketches the influences that diverted Mr. Lecky from theological studies and the prospect of "a peaceful clerical life in a family living near Cork" and turned him into the path of literature, taking